

For Immediate Release
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Detroit News Article on Legislature's Budget Increase Used Wrong Numbers

Budget increase since 2001 is only half a percent

Lansing - The Detroit News article on Sunday, March 5, 2006, citing an increase in the Legislature's budget in the past five years used incorrect information. What the Detroit News failed to notice is that starting in Fiscal Year 2002, the Legislative Auditor General's budget was rolled in to the Legislature's budget.

"To get an apples-to-apples comparison, you have to use as a base the last time the Legislature and the Legislative Auditor General were separate line items and compare them with today," said Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema, R-Wyoming. "When you do the math using the correct figures, the increase from 2001 through today is only half a percent over five years - not 14 percent as reported by the Detroit News. Under my leadership, we have taken the need to restrict budgetary increases for the Legislature very seriously - as we do with all state budget items - and we will continue to do so."

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